

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS) AND TRIBAL
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)
ADMINISTRATORS' MEETING SUMMARY**

**August 14, 2018
744 P Street, OB-9, Room 1804
Sacramento, CA
9:00 am – 11:00 am**

This document summarizes key issues discussed at the meeting between Tribal TANF Administrators (TTA) and leaders, and CDSS representatives on August 14, 2018.

Action items from the prior Tribal TANF Administrators' meeting on May 8, 2018, were met.

Legislative Updates

Elaine Ward, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Eligibility Bureau Chief, provided legislative updates.

Senate Bill (SB) 380, effective November 1, 2018, will allow a CalWORKs assistance unit (AU) to elect to receive full child support payments for a stepsibling or half-sibling of an eligible child in the AU in lieu of cash aid for the step/half-sibling, and exempts those child support payments from consideration when determining CalWORKs eligibility.

Effective April 1, 2019, the CalWORKs maximum aid payments (MAP) will increase by ten percent. Assembly Bill (AB) 1811 also provides for further MAP increases in Fiscal Years (FY) 2019–20 and 2020–21, or until the MAP levels reach 50 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

AB 1992 proposes to eliminate immunization penalties for CalWORKs applicants and recipients.

Federal Updates

Kim Johnson, CalWORKs and Child Care Branch Chief, provided housing updates. There is a twenty-million-dollar increase in the budget.

The CalWORKs Home Visiting Initiative Program, implementing January 2019, will target first time parents who are pregnant or parenting a child under two years of age. This initiative will be ongoing.

There is a ten-million-dollar investment in diapers. The four entities included are:

1. Community Food Bank located in the City of Fresno
2. The Jacobs and Cushman San Diego Food Bank
3. Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
4. San Francisco Marin Food Bank

The ten million dollars will cover diaper distribution for the next two years. Details on how diapers will be distributed across the state is in development.

Investment of two million dollars for the Youth and Family Civic Engagement Program, which allows opportunities for young people to acquire leadership and academic skills.

CalWORKs and CalFresh are looking at ways families verify eligibility for programs. A State Verification Hub road map will be available in October 2018.

The California Outcomes and Accountability Review (Cal-OAR) initiative is looking to create new measures to evaluate client success in the CalWORKs program. There were over 100 recommendations from stakeholders. The team is currently looking at data sources to determine best measures. Counties will report on measures and create self-assessments by FY 2019-20. Measures will be finalized by October 2018.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), CalWORKs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Refugees are working closely with state workforce programs to develop metrics for employment to strengthen workforce.

Todd Bland, Deputy Director of the Family Engagement and Empowerment Division, provided federal updates. The House passed the TANF Reauthorization bill, but it never made it to the floor. This bill moves away from work participation rates (WPR). Congress is now looking at a temporary, continuing resolution by September 30, 2018.

The Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system switched to a new vendor the last weekend of June. Some minor issues such as card printing and county administrative issues ensued, but clients were not significantly affected during the conversion.

In addition, the EBT system should be on a surcharge free network, but the contract has not been finalized with Bank of America. Currently, Bank of America has a surcharge of three dollars but clients will get it back within 24 to 48 hours.

CDSS Tribal Affairs Team

Kim presented on behalf of Heather Hostler, Director of the Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA). The Tribal Consultation Summit will be on September 27, 2018, from 9 AM to 12 PM, in the auditorium (OB-9, Room 205). One of the topics discussed will be the Tribal TANF methodology. More information regarding the Summit will be sent out this month.

Native American Day is on September 28, 2018.

CalFresh Updates

Jennifer Niklas, CalFresh Policy Section Chief, provided updates about Disaster CalFresh. A request was sent to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) for Shasta County. The request is currently pending approval.

Effective June 1, 2019, Supplemental Security Income and/or California State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) recipients are now eligible to receive CalFresh benefits due to AB 1811, which reverses the SSI/SSP cash-out policy. This change will bring in about 380,000 senior households, while reducing about 70,000 families and increasing the overall CalFresh caseload by roughly 500,000 cases.

The Transitional Nutrition Benefit Program allows benefits to be granted to a CalFresh household that becomes ineligible due to a previously excluded SSI/SSP recipient being added to the household.

Guidance from FNS regarding the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) is forthcoming.

The Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) time limit waiver has expired for three counties. Beginning September 1st, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties will require ABAWD CalFresh recipients to meet work requirements (the selected counties were based on unemployment rates).

Open Discussion

No changes to the structure of the TTAs' meeting.

Allocation letters went out last week. If the prior fiscal year has been closed out, Tribal TANF Programs (TTP) can remit advances to be processed.

No revisions to the Exhibit B.

CDSS ACTION ITEMS

- Share link for Local Workforce Development Board Planning Guidance, directory of planning partners, and WIOA planning process
- Share link to surcharge-free network ACIN
- Share links regarding the CalFresh policy changes ACL
- Share State contact and/or list of resources for disasters

PROPOSED PRESENTATIONS

- Foster Care (computing foster care benefits)
- Child Protective Services (CPS) process
- Disaster Resources from Inter-Tribal Council of California, Inc. (Connie Reitman-Solas)
- Resources to address the Opioid Epidemic

NEXT TRIBAL TANF ADMINISTRATORS' MEETINGS

Tuesday, November 6, 2018, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (OB-9 Room 1804)

Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Tuesday, August 13, 2019, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm